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The League of Women Voters of the Charleston Area
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Attention: Charles L. A. Terreni
Chief Clerk/Administrator
South Carolina Public Service Commission
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Mr. Terreni:

I am writing on behalf of the Charleston Area League of Women Voters, who are filing the following written comments to you in accordance with Docket No. 2005-385-E – Order No. 2006-680 on the consideration of implementing the requirements of Section 1251 (Net Metering and Additional Standards) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

In 2006, the League of Women Voters joined the growing list of national organizations that endorse the Citizens' Climate Policy. The Citizens' Climate Policy Statement of Principles outlines that the federal government and U.S. businesses can and should promote clean and efficient sources of energy, and that immediate action is required to significantly reduce our country's emissions of global warming pollutants. To be clear, the Charleston Area League of Women Voters supports these statements and therefore supports the federal government's plan for net metering for the following reasons:

1. Our current reliance on fossil fuels (including coal, petroleum, and natural gas) is unsustainable in the long run.
2. A major portion of our petroleum comes from areas of the world that are highly unstable and/or hostile to the United States.
3. 65% of energy used in South Carolina is produced by burning fossil fuels
4. South Carolina ranks 3rd in per capita consumption of electricity and the 4th in per capita consumption of motor fuel.
5. Our heavy reliance on fossil fuels promotes global warming, which, among other things, has already caused the increased intensity of hurricanes; in the near future will begin to cause the inundation of our coastal areas, flooding cities and towns, state parks, revenue-generating resort areas, military installations, port facilities, Interstate Highways, etc.; and in the long term will bring millions of impoverished environmental refugees to our fine state, severely taxing our infrastructure and public services.
6. Net metering allows individuals, businesses, and organizations to produce their own renewable energy (eg., solar, wind, & biofuel), to tie into the electric grid, and to sell the excess electricity they produce (up to a point) to the local or regional electric utility.

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

7. Net metering provides a significant financial incentive to us to change the way we generate electricity and to lower fossil fuel emissions.
8. Net metering has already been successfully implemented in 41 states.
9. Through the use of external disconnect switches, net metering poses no danger to utility company line workers.

For the above-mentioned reasons the Charleston Area League of Women Voters strongly encourages the PSC to set net metering as the standard for the public utilities that it regulates.

Sincerely,
Signature

Jenny Widener

Natural Resources Director, Charleston Area League of Women Voters

Barbara Zia

President, Charleston Area League of Women Voters

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Today's date

4/22/07